

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A device for retrieval of ~~a foreign body~~ an intravascular stent from a vessel of a patient, said device comprising:

a flexibly resilient central shaft having a tip, and an axial channel for receiving a ~~an~~ angioplasty guidewire therein; said central shaft having a diameter sized such that said central shaft is received in a central cavity formed by a tubular body of said stent;

balloon support means fixed to and extending from said central shaft and having a free end spaced therefrom; said balloon support means being a generally cylindrical sleeve spaced radially from and surrounding said central shaft and extending axially relative thereto to define an annular recess between said sleeve and said central shaft for receiving said tubular body of said stent; and

generally annular inflatable balloon means provided at said free end of said balloon support means and arranged to expand inwardly towards said central shaft upon inflation;

whereby in use said device is positioned such that ~~a foreign body to be retrieved~~ said tubular body of said stent to be retrieved is received in said annular recess, an outer surface of said stent is located between said free end and surrounded by said generally annular balloon means, said tip of said central shaft protrudes through said central cavity of said stent, and said balloon means is subsequently inflated to bear against the foreign body said outer surface of said stent, thereby to compress said stent and hold it against said stent between said balloon means and said central shaft, such that the combined foreign body said stent and said device can be withdrawn together from the vessel.

17. - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim ~~19~~ 16, wherein said central shaft is generally cylindrical, having a uniform diameter along most of its length, and a short tapering section towards its tip.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a hub at an end of said central shaft distal from said inflatable balloon means.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein said hub has a port in fluid communication with said inflatable balloon means to enable inflation thereof by injection of an inflation fluid.

25. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said port is adapted to receive a syringe from which the inflation fluid is to be delivered.

26. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein said inflation fluid is of radiographic contrast.

27. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 24, wherein inflation of said inflatable balloon means is effected by the injection of a volume of inflation fluid in the range of from 2 to 5 ml.

28. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, said device being adapted for delivery into and recovery from a vessel by means of a guiding catheter.

29. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising a guiding catheter for delivery of said device into a vessel, and subsequent recovery of said device therefrom.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said central shaft is non-expandable.

32. (New) A kit used during angioplasty procedures for retrieving an intravascular stent from a vessel of a patient, the kit comprising:

a guiding catheter positioned in the vessel of the patient; and

a retrieval device slidable back and forth through the guiding catheter, the retrieval device including:

a flexibly resilient central shaft having a tip and an axial

channel for receiving an angioplasty guidewire therein, the central shaft having a diameter sized such that the central shaft is received in a central cavity formed by a tubular body of the stent,

a balloon support means fixed to and extending from the central shaft and having a free end spaced therefrom, the balloon support means being a generally cylindrical sleeve spaced radially from and surrounding the central shaft and extending axially relative thereto to define an annular recess between the sleeve and the central shaft for receiving the tubular body of the stent, and

generally annular inflatable balloon means provided at the free end of the balloon support means, and arranged to expand inwardly towards the central shaft upon inflation,

whereby in use, the device is moved through the guiding catheter such that the tubular body of the stent to be retrieved is received in the annular recess, an outer surface of the stent is surrounded by the generally annular balloon means, the tip of the central shaft protrudes through the central cavity of the stent, and the balloon means is subsequently inflated to bear against the outer surface of the stent, thereby to compress the stent, and hold the stent between the balloon means and the central shaft, such that the stent and device can be withdrawn together through the guiding catheter and from the vessel leaving the guidewire and guiding catheter in place in the vessel to enable subsequent angioplasty procedures.